

REMARKS

Claims 45 and 47-53 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 40 and 41 have been amended. Claims 40-44 and 46 are pending.

Claims 40-46

Claims 40-41, 43 and 45-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,975,101 to Zheng ("Zheng '101"). Claims 40, 42 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,301,705 to Zheng ("Zheng '705"). Claims 40-41, 45-48 and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,592,961 to Chin ("Chin"). Claims 40-42, 45-49 and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Des. 429,307 to Wu et al. ("Wu") in view of USP 5,411,046 to Wan ("Wan"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 40 has been amended to recite that the add-on panel is coupled to the fabric material of one of the side panels at the interior space thereof, and away from the periphery of the side panel. It is respectfully submitted that Zheng '101, Wu and Chin do not disclose this feature.

For example, the panels 412 and 414 in FIG. 13 of Zheng '101 are coupled to the top edges of the side panels 310 and 312, respectively. The panels 412 and 414 are not coupled to the fabric material of any side panel at the interior space thereof, and away from the periphery of the side panel.

Similarly, the panels F1 and F2 in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Wu are coupled to the top edges of the side panels, and are not coupled to the fabric material of any side panel at the interior space thereof, and away from the periphery of the side panel.

The top panel 14 in Chin (which the Examiner considers to be the claimed "add-on panel") is not coupled to the fabric material of one of the side panels 12 at the interior space thereof, and away from the periphery of the side panel 12. Instead, the top panel 14 is "attached to the upper edges 24 of each of the side panels 12". See column 4, lines 15-18. In addition, the top panel 14 is only made of a flexible, durable material such as nylon (see column 4, lines 18-20), and does not have a foldable frame member.

Regarding Zheng '705, elements 134 and 114 cannot correspond to the claimed "add-on panel" because their respective frame members 122 and 138 cannot be twisted and folded to form a plurality of concentric loops. This limitation has been added to claim 40 from claim 45, which the Examiner had acknowledged was distinguishable over Zheng '705. In this regard, the frame members 122 and 138 are semi-circular (see column 4,

lines 11 and 22) and therefore cannot be twisted and folded to form a plurality of concentric loops.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 40, and claims 41-44 and 45-46 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

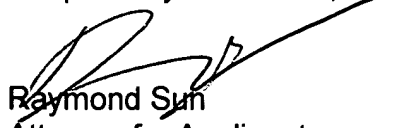
Claims 47-53

Claims 47-53 have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

* * *

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to phone the undersigned if there are informal matters that can be resolved in a phone conversation or by Examiner's Amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: December 30, 2004

By: 
Raymond Sun